

Amino Acid Disorders (includes Urea Cycle Disorders)

- **Amino acid disorders** are a group of conditions that occur when the body cannot properly use certain amino acids found in food. **Amino acids** are the “building blocks” that the body uses to make **proteins**.
- When the body is unable to use amino acids, dangerous substances build up in the body. This can occur shortly after birth. Children with amino acid disorders can have organ damage, mental retardation, and other health problems. There are no cures for amino acid disorders. However, special diets or supplements may help treat these problems.
- **Indiana’s newborn screen tests for the following amino acid disorders:**
 - Argininosuccinic aciduria
 - Citrin deficiency
 - Citrullinemia
 - Homocystinuria
 - Hypermethioninemia
 - Tyrosinemia Type I
 - Tyrosinemia Type II
- For more information on amino acid or urea cycle disorders, please click on one of the links below.
 - [Medline Plus Medical Encyclopedia](#)
 - [National Library of Medicine Genetics Home Reference](#)
 - [STAR-G \(Screening, Technology, and Research in Genetics\)](#)